



AMERICAN ASSOCIATION OF SUICIDOLOGY

Contacts:

David Miller, Ph.D.
AAS President
dmiller@albany.edu
Julie Cerel, Ph.D.
AAS President-Elect
julie.cerel@uky.edu

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: 04/25/2016

Statement from the American Association of Suicidology on the CDC's Increase in suicide in the United States, 1999–2014

WASHINGTON, DC - April 25, 2016: Late last week, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention released the report "Increase in Suicide in the United States, 1999–2014." The American Association of Suicidology, the oldest and largest membership organization in the U.S. devoted to understanding and preventing suicide as well as supporting those affected by it, has issued the following comment:

"AAS greatly values the data provided by the CDC and is concerned about this disturbing increase in suicide among the people of the United States. We are dedicated to ongoing efforts and collaborations with other organizations to develop programs that will have a significant and meaningful impact on the lives of those who struggle with mental health concerns and suicidal behavior.

The CDC's report is a vital resource for the suicidology community and is a sobering reminder as to why AAS continues our 50 year mission to understand and prevent suicide. We in the suicide prevention community are painfully aware that the CDC's report is more than facts, figures, charts and trends; behind the data are families, friends, colleagues, and communities who are dealing with the loss of someone they loved and valued.

AAS is a nationally-recognized leader in developing and implementing suicide prevention training programs geared for specific audiences. We know that targeted training of mental health providers advised by evidence-based treatment practices can save lives. Unfortunately, most clinicians have little if any formal training in recognizing and responding to suicidal behavior. Mandated training for all mental and physical health providers, combined with evidence-based public health initiatives and policies, can reduce suicide deaths. As our motto states, suicide prevention is everyone's business.

AAS will continue our work to develop evidence-based suicide prevention training programs, provide outlets for the dissemination of new research and developments in suicide prevention, inform the general public on the warning signs of suicide and how to help prevent it, collaborate with other public and private organizations, and provide support for suicide attempt survivors and those who are coping with the loss of a loved one from suicide. "

The American Association of Suicidology is a membership organization for all those involved in suicide prevention and intervention, or touched by suicide. AAS is a leader in the advancement of scientific and programmatic efforts in suicide prevention through research, education and training, the development of standards and resources, and survivor support services. Led by Interim Executive Director Amy Kulp and headquartered in Washington, DC, AAS has been unwavering in its mission for over 50 years. AAS believes that Suicide Prevention is Everyone's Business... make it yours by joining us on [Facebook](#) and [Twitter](#). Or visit us on our [Website](#) to learn the [Warning Signs for Suicide](#) and how you can make a difference.

###